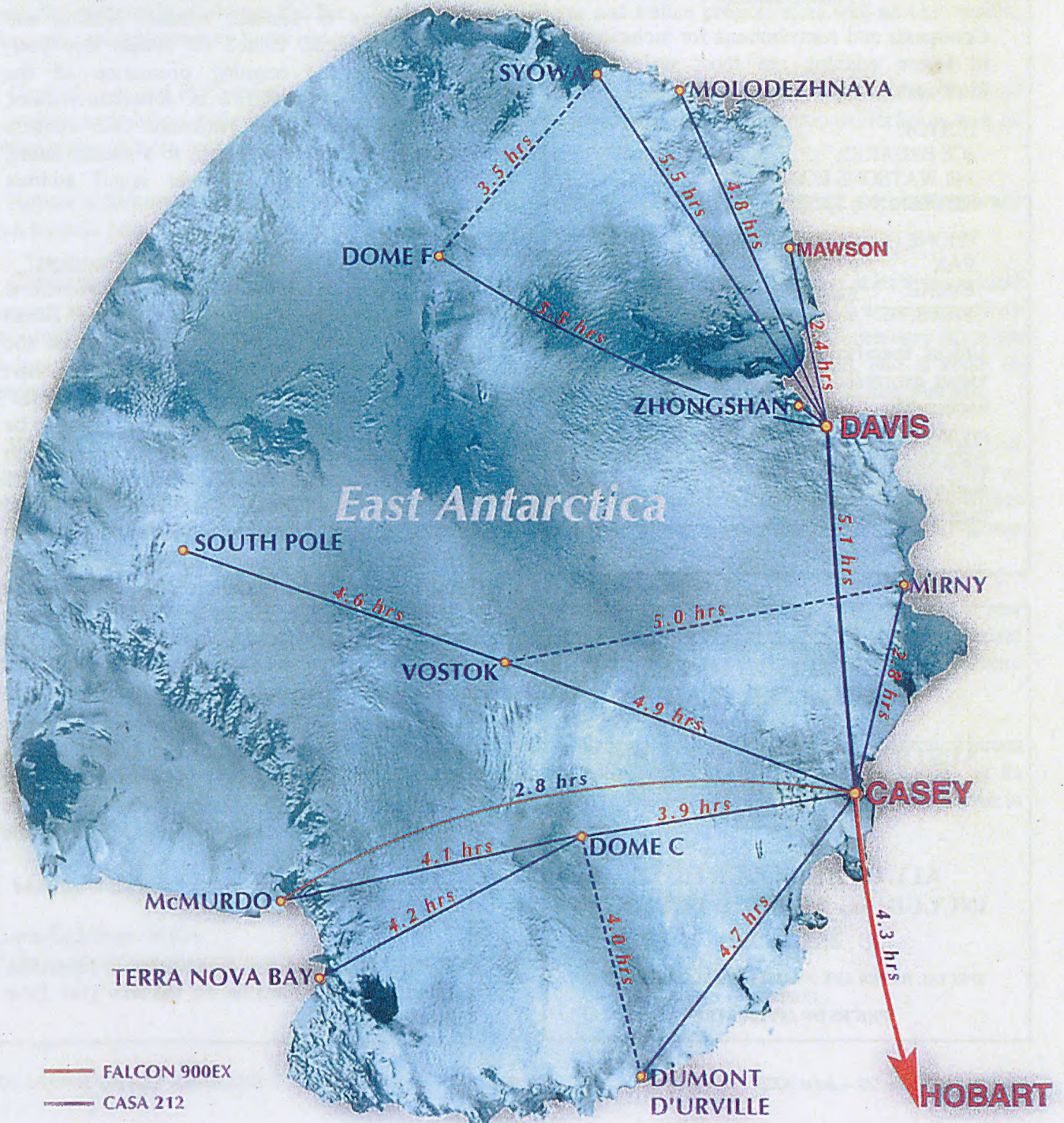


# ICE BREAKER





# ICE BREAKER MAGAZINE

ICE BREAKER magazine is published independently by Malcolm Wallhead and Associates as a quarterly magazine covering Tasmanian Polar and Southern Ocean related topics.

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## EDITORIAL

The busyness of the Midwinter Festival is upon us again, and the Tasmanian Polar Network has contributed sufficient this year to become a Gold Sponsor, responsible for the Pre-Launch function and official Launch of the Festival on June 14. While this decision was not accepted wholeheartedly by all members, the value of hosting potential Festival sponsors and members for the TPN will become evident after the Festival is over, and consideration of other means of TPN business promotion will be considered next year.

\* \* \*

ICE BREAKER welcomes our most distant subscribers in Juneau, Alaska. Kristan and Mark Sabbatini visited IB earlier this year, thanks to the ongoing promotion of the magazine by the Office of Antarctic Affairs, now called Antarctic Tasmania. One wonders about the logic of a change to a shorter name, which results in a longer email address though...

\* \* \*

### Priority Port Profile: Transients or Transport?

The recent news that the State Government is considering the sale of the Marine Board building to a French hotel chain poses the question: Where are all the resident Hobart Ports Corporation and shipping companies' staff (many of them TPN members) going to be rehoused? While more tourist accommodation may be essential in Hobart, why right on the waterfront? On the one hand, the State Government generously supports the TPN, but on the other hand, seems to want to minimise their presence in the port area, essential to shipping and other facilities related to Antarctic resupply. A clarification of this matter would be welcome.

\* \* \*

Igloo Update: Four Expressions of Interest in the sale of the Igloo Satellite Cabin System were received, but no buyers at this stage. However, discussions are underway to have the Igloos manufactured under licence. Watch this space!

*Anthea Wallhead*

Cover: Intercontinental flying times in Antarctica, when Skytraders starts the air link next year. [Map courtesy of AAD.]





Flying over the alps of the South Island of New Zealand, with glaciers slowly making their way down steep mountain sides and the earth beneath appearing almost lifeless from far above, you could almost be looking at an Antarctic landscape.

While New Zealand may have the edge on Tasmania with its dramatic icy slopes, Tasmania can hold its own with its support for the local Antarctic community and as an international gateway to Antarctica.

At the end of March, Antarctic Tasmania General Manager, Greg Johannes, Ministerial Officer Nigel Reeves and I travelled to Christchurch, Auckland and Sydney to visit Antarctic institutions. We wanted to find out what government support is provided to the local Antarctic community, how their airlink operates with the cooperation between the New Zealand, United States and Italian programs, as well as view public Antarctic exhibitions both historical and contemporary.

Christchurch and Hobart have many things in common, sharing much Antarctic history, with the Ports of Lyttelton and Hobart both farewelling and welcoming home important historic Antarctic explorers as well as being home to more contemporary Antarctic programs.

Hobart is fortunate to have the harbour as an integral part of our city, thereby bringing our contemporary and historic links to Antarctic exploration and science to the fore.

Christchurch on the other hand has the impressive presence of the United States program at its international airport as well as the *International Antarctic Centre*, the equivalent of *Antarctic Adventure*, in close proximity to the airport, emphasising New Zealand's gateway status. Added to this, the Canterbury Museum is home to reputedly the second best collection of Antarctic memorabilia in the world, and is about to undergo a \$NZ10 million refit, while a new art gallery with a permanent Antarctic display is also planned.

While Christchurch has some impressive Antarctic institutions, Hobart appears to be far better organised and supportive of its local Antarctic community with the support of federal, state and local government as well as through the formal networking provided through the Tasmanian Polar Network, the Midwinter Festival being a good example. However, Christchurch is trying to improve links through a volunteer group *Antarctic Link Canterbury*.

While in Sydney we visited the State Library of New South Wales, which is home to Australia's best collection of Antarctic manuscripts. This meeting confirmed the need for a national repository for Antarctic memorabilia, as well as a virtual repository, noting that many of the collections around Australia will remain with their current institutions regardless of a national collection.

For those fortunate to have been able to visit the Australian National Maritime Museum's Antarctic Heroes Exhibition, I am sure all would agree that the exhibition with Shackleton's boat 'James Caird' as its centrepiece, was well presented, very interesting and an excellent example of how to tell Antarctic stories in a simple and informative way.

**Lara Giddings MHA**  
**PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ON ANTARCTIC AFFAIRS**



## PEG PUTT'S MESSAGE



### OPPORTUNITIES, OPPORTUNITIES AND MORE OPPORTUNITIES

The opportunities, to develop a deeper and more knowledgeable understanding of Antarctica as one of the world's great wildlife sanctuaries and as the world's largest recorder of climate change, absolutely abound with the up and coming Midwinter Festival to be held between the 14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> of June. The suite of events should provide something for every one, so grab a program.

The Festival is evolving well and is a celebration of the historical and contemporary link between the Port of Hobart and the earlier and current exploration of the great and bountiful Southern Ocean. It can also be seen as a quiet reminder of the role Tasmanians must play as the custodians of Macquarie Island wild life sanctuary; Australia's role in protecting the Southern Ocean and of the ongoing need to learn more about what is virtually in our backyard.

I am especially looking forward to Science in the Pub with speakers from the Australian Antarctic Division and the full day Sunday Program at the Grand Chancellor with presentations from the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Co-operative Research Centre. I would like to congratulate all the businesses & participants involved in sponsoring the event. It is great to see.

I have just received an invitation to attend the Governor's Forum on Antarctica on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The program of events including The Future of Antarctic Science and Technology session should provide some interesting debate and exciting opportunities to identify and support Tasmanian innovation and design in sustainable technologies for sensitive high value conservation areas. Such developments I see as being integral component of an innovative, clean, green economy coupled with the development of Antarctic Education & Training as an extra string to our sustainable economic bow.

The Future of Macquarie Island forum will be of interest, as we are obligated to explore the broader implications of world heritage management for all of the Sub-Antarctic islands which are by their very nature unique eco systems. This forum will be an excellent opportunity to explore the global conservation values of these areas and to engage in discussions, which seek to ensure that such values are preserved above all other activities.

Stay Cool, and enjoy the festival and make sure you have that cosy something (or someone) for the longest night.

**Peg Putt**  
**Leader of the Tasmanian Greens**

- The Leader of the Opposition, Rene Hidding, was unable to contribute to this edition.



## TPN CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



We are now close to midwinter and that means the Midwinter Festival is now within a few weeks.

It was tremendous news to receive that Paul Cullen would be returning to coordinate the 2003 Festival planning and execution, as he had learned so much from last year's inaugural event. He is now well and truly ensconced and his efforts are bearing very good fruit with both sponsorship and planning now well in hand. This year's Festival is set to eclipse the successes of 2002 and help cement the Event within Tasmania's calendar.

The TPN is sponsoring the Festival Opening on the night of 14/6/03 and we are keen to use this occasion in a strategic manner to introduce new players to the Antarctic 'community' both as prospective TPN Members and as future sponsors for the Midwinter Festival itself. I encourage all TPN Members to attend the Festival Opening and as many Events as possible during the week up to the close on 22/6/03.

In particular, I draw everyone's attention to the Midwinter Dinner on Saturday 21/6/03, which will be attended by the Governor, the Premier and the Lord Mayor. The Dinner will be preceded by the Philip Law Lecture to be given this year by Barry Jones, the well known Politician, Quiz Master and Thinker.

The final Governor's Forum is scheduled for 1/8/03 before Sir Guy Green steps down from this Office, and is a date to note.

The TPN's next meeting is scheduled for 25/7/03 and is to be held at Antarctic Adventure. We will be honouring Sir Guy on this occasion for his strong and enthusiastic leadership in matters relating to the Antarctic, Sub-Antarctic and the Southern Ocean, so I ask all Members to also please put this date in their diaries.

Planning is now in hand for the TPN's 'Commercialisation and Procurement' Workshop to be held in September. This Initiative flows directly from the adoption of the TPN's new Strategic Plan at the March meeting and holds a deal of potential to 'grow the business' for Tasmania.

All in all, there's a lot going on for the winter!

Let's enjoy it and be even keener and more enthusiastic to make the most of next summer!

Keep warm, happy and busy!

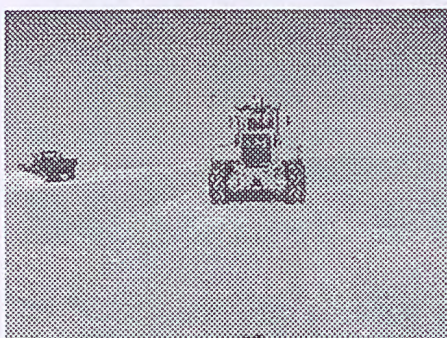
**Bill Lawson.**  
**Chairperson, TPN.**

The Institute for Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies' project on the development of a hydrogen-powered vehicle was highlighted during the Australian Innovation Festival in May. IASOS PhD student, David Pointing, showed the model car constructed for the project, which is part of the Australian Antarctic Division's focus on alternative energy-efficient technologies. Mawson Station now has two large wind turbines installed, and if successful, hydrogen-powered vehicles in environmentally sensitive areas such as Antarctica will reduce diesel fuel costs and dependence on fossil fuels.

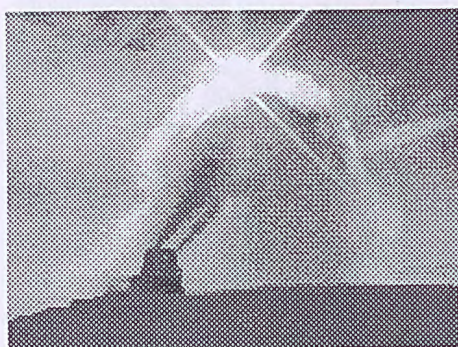


## AIR TRANSPORT PROJECT UPDATE

The 2002/2003 Antarctic season saw the Air Transport Project commence runway construction trials at Casey. After an extensive reconnaissance the AAD team, lead by ice runway specialist, George Blaisdell, located and surveyed a runway site on the upper Patterson Glacier. Trials of both plant and construction techniques were extremely productive and the team were able to produce a laser levelled foundation for the runway approximately 3700m long and confirm that the site is suitable for construction. A joint team from the Australian Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and Skytraders visited the site at the end of the season and were most impressed with both the aerodrome plans and the ice runway. In the coming season, two fixed wing aircraft will be used to test aspects of the intra-continental system and work will be undertaken at the runway to allow inter-continental flights in the following year.



Establishing the foundation of the ice runway. The ice is cut back using a laser guided grader; the spoil is then worked to the edge of the runway by a large plough. [Photo by George Blaisdell, AAD.]



Spoil is removed with the aid of a snow blower. Then conditions are right, the wind will dissipate the spoil over a large area so that no furrow at all is left behind. [Photo by George Blaisdell, AAD.]



The first aircraft to use the ice runway was a Twin Otter. When construction work is completed next season the runway will be 4000m long, 100m wide and ready for use by wheeled aircraft. A snow cap will also be applied to the runway to enhance its durability and surface friction. [Photo by George Blaisdell, AAD.]

For further information, see Current Projects - Air Transport section of the AAD website: [www.aad.gov.au](http://www.aad.gov.au)





## Antarctic Tasmania

After many years of service to the Antarctic community under the moniker of 'Office of Antarctic Affairs', our name has officially been changed to *Antarctic Tasmania*.

The new name offers us a number of important benefits. Primarily, it allows us to clarify our role in Tasmania's large Antarctic community as a State Government agency with a remit on Antarctic issues that extends well beyond policy making.

By badging ourselves clearly as a Tasmanian authority, Antarctic Tasmania will ensure that the Government receives recognition locally, nationally and overseas for its substantial investment in supporting the Antarctic community. The name change is also consistent with the nomenclature being adopted by other business units in government, including Events Tasmania, Tourism Tasmania and Screen Tasmania.

The name change to Antarctic Tasmania comes at an ideal time in the middle of an intense and high profile period of activity. The 2003 Antarctic Tasmania Midwinter Festival is almost upon us and we're right in the middle of a series of international meetings including those of the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO), the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP).

It's the Midwinter Festival, of course, that's occupying most of our energy at the moment.

The program that the team has pulled together has something for everyone. From music to film and science to history, the Festival promises to offer visitors a series of unique perspectives on the Antarctic environment and Australia's work down south.

In fact, the program this year is so good that Festival organisers have managed to match Government funding on a one-to-one basis with outside sponsorship. This is great news and bodes well for the long-term sustainability of the event.

Tasmania's Antarctic community got a sneak peak at the program last month, when the Premier officially launched the event. Arriving on a Hagglund supplied by the Australian Antarctic Division, the Premier went on to unveil the main Festival advertisement that WIN-TV will take on its networks in Tasmania and regional Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT.

The ad features mesmerising cinematography by Wade Fairley, courtesy of the ABC, set against music supplied by the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. Appropriately enough, the music is taken from the TSO's famous recording of the Winter Movement in Vivaldi's Four Seasons.

With this lead in to the Festival, winter never looked better!

**Greg Johannes**  
**Director**

- A report from Antarctic Adventure's Director, Rod Cameron-Tucker, was unavailable this issue.



## **ANTARCTIC CRC ACTIVITIES**

The Antarctic CRC would like to take this opportunity to say thankyou to the many staff, students, friends and colleagues that have contributed to the success of the centre.

The Antarctic CRC staff has contributed to over 600 peer reviewed papers and monographs and produced more than 60 PhD's.

Over its 13 year term, from establishment in 1991 to completion in June 2003, the Antarctic CRC has been a place for cooperative research on Antarctic and Southern Ocean issues including the climate record of the ice sheet and ocean sediment, the weather patterns around the continent, the changes in sea ice and oceans with climate change and also changes in the ocean take up of carbon dioxide. A continuing archive of Antarctic micro-organisms has been established and commercial utilisation has been developed. These activities have been encompassed within Australia's interest in law and international policy.

This summer's field season saw the CRC's Amery Ice Shelf Oceanographic Research (AMISOR) project collect seismic ice thickness and surface elevation data and previous years mooring data. Preparations are now underway for the Voyage 1 cruise of the 2003/04 season, which will involve the collection of field data for comparison with satellite derived data (ground truthing), activities which will be continued under the new Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems (ACE) CRC program.

On June 30<sup>th</sup> 2003, there will be a hand over from the Antarctic CRC to the new ACE CRC.

**Donna Roberts**  
**Publications & Administrative Officer**  
**Antarctic CRC**

\* \* \*

## **GOVERNOR'S ANTARCTIC FORUM 2003**

The Agenda for the Governor's Forum to be held on August 1 has now been prepared and the Antarctic community is grateful Sir Guy Green will be able to attend, whether or not His Excellency is still Administrator of the Commonwealth of Australia and resident in Canberra.

The event has been divided into four major sessions throughout the day after opening presentations by the Governor; the Premier; Jim Bacon, and the Leader of the Opposition, Rene Hidding. The first session is about the Antarctic Air Link, presented by Dr Tony Press, Director of the Australian Antarctic Division and Norman McKay, Chief Executive of Skytraders Pty Ltd.

After morning tea, Dr Katherine Woodthorpe, Chairman of the newly formed Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC, and Dr Tony Haymet, Chief of CSIRO's Marine Research Division, will talk on the Future of Antarctic Science and Technology.

Session III after lunch covers 'Selling Antarctic Education and Training to the World' by Professor Daniel Le Grew, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania and Associate Professor Andrew McMinn, Director of IASOS.

The final session discusses the Future of Macquarie Island, presented by Professor Michael Stoddart, Chief Scientist of ANARE and Mr Jeff Kelly, Secretary of the Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and Arts. Discussion times will be available after each session and the afternoon concludes with refreshments with the Governor.

[Information supplied by John Chilcott, Government House]

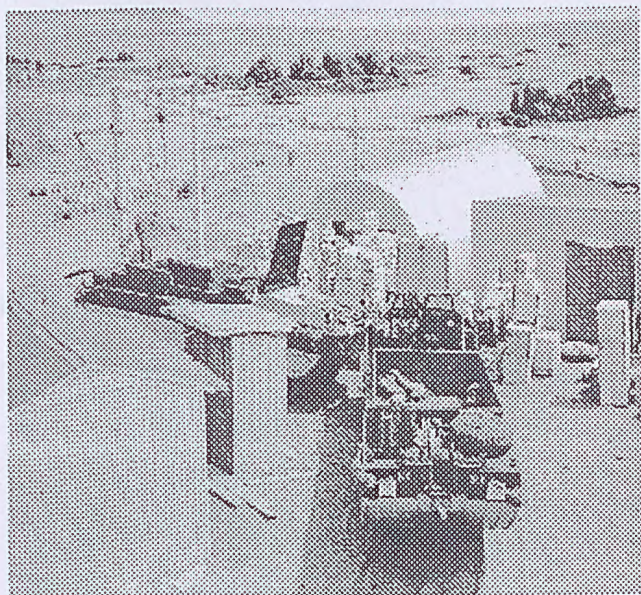


## **MACQUARIE MEMORIES NO. 1 (cont.):**

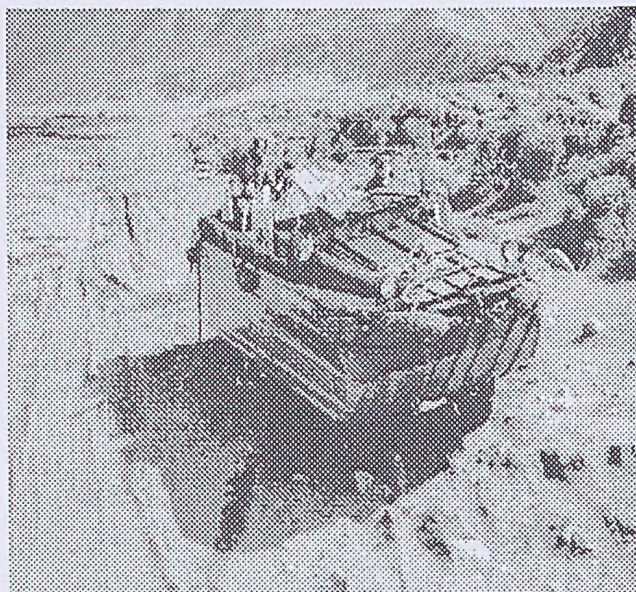
*Continuing Peter Ford's account of his time on Macquarie Island in the 1950's*

The supply ships anchored well away from the island because of the extensive reefs surrounding it. While loading the DUKW landing craft was, in itself, hazardous, so was the trip to the shore. DUKWs are as manoeuvrable as bath tubs and negotiating the reefs and rocks in a swell was tricky. Space between the reefs was minimal. Freeboard when the DUKW was fully loaded was about one foot or so; care had to be taken in breaking waves. Becoming broadside to the waves had to be avoided at all costs. A small propeller powered the DUKW, with a rudder linked to the steering wheel system.

While approaching the shore through the hazards, the driver had to perform a rapid manoeuvre on one occasion, which caused the rudder cable to break. Using the little effect offered by steering the front wheels, he managed to get to the shore safely. I was surprised to find that he had a replacement cable as part of the spares. Must break often! The driver spent a few hours threading the cable from the back of the vehicle through to the attachment point on the steering wheel shaft. When it was finally done, the trip back to the ship was started.



**DUKWs outside Nissen hut**



**DUKW with supplies**

Once in the water, a problem appeared. The cable was connected backwards! To turn right, the wheel had to be turned to the left. As we approached the reef section, you could visibly see the driver working out which way to turn the wheel. The ensuing delays caused by this process, and the mistakes made when habit intervened, nearly caused us to hit a few of the hazards. Since this was towards the end of the unloading, no further repairs were undertaken. The driver had to put up with the problem 'til the end.

The unloading of the supplies was at times quite strenuous. Lifting 44 gallon drums of diesel fuel over the sides of the DUKW took a lot of effort. After half a day of doing this, my arms became extremely weak, almost paralyzed, so I was not able to lift anything. I had a hard time convincing the rest of the crew that I was not malingering! I took over the task of driving the caterpillar tractor that was used to tow a large sled loaded with supplies from the shore to the Nissen hut that was used for the main storage for the base.

The reason I was at the island was to do the cosmic ray experiments, trying to determine the origin of these particles from outer space. The experimental equipment used a telescope consisting of stacks of Geiger counters and lead. The counters were lightweight, delicate glass tubes and were spring suspended for shipping in large thin plywood boxes. The lead was shipped in quite small, very strong boxes that weighed about 100 lbs. each. To the uninitiated expeditioners, it was obvious that the small, unlabelled boxes would be easier to unload from the DUKW than the very large Geiger boxes. Those of us in the know were quite happy to let the crew find out for themselves, after they unloaded a few boxes, the error in this assumption!

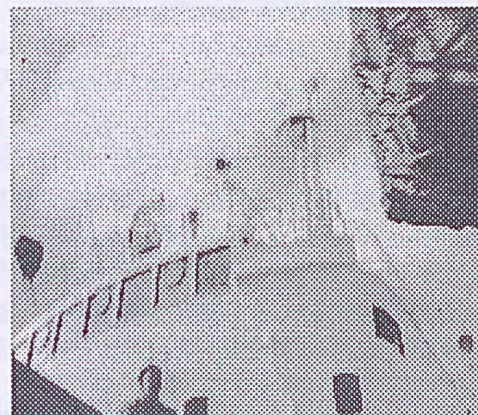
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The stocks of food for the year consisted of fresh and canned goods. We were told by the previous crew to eat the fresh stuff first, as it did not last long. The Nissen storage hut was not refrigerated; Macquarie temperatures ranged from 1 to 10 degrees C and this was the temperature range the stored food would experience. It was adequate for most of the fresh food, but eventually the potatoes and other vegetables started to sprout and canned food was then used.



**Wandering Albatross chick**



**Sling load from Kista Dan**



**Kista Dan from Isthmus**

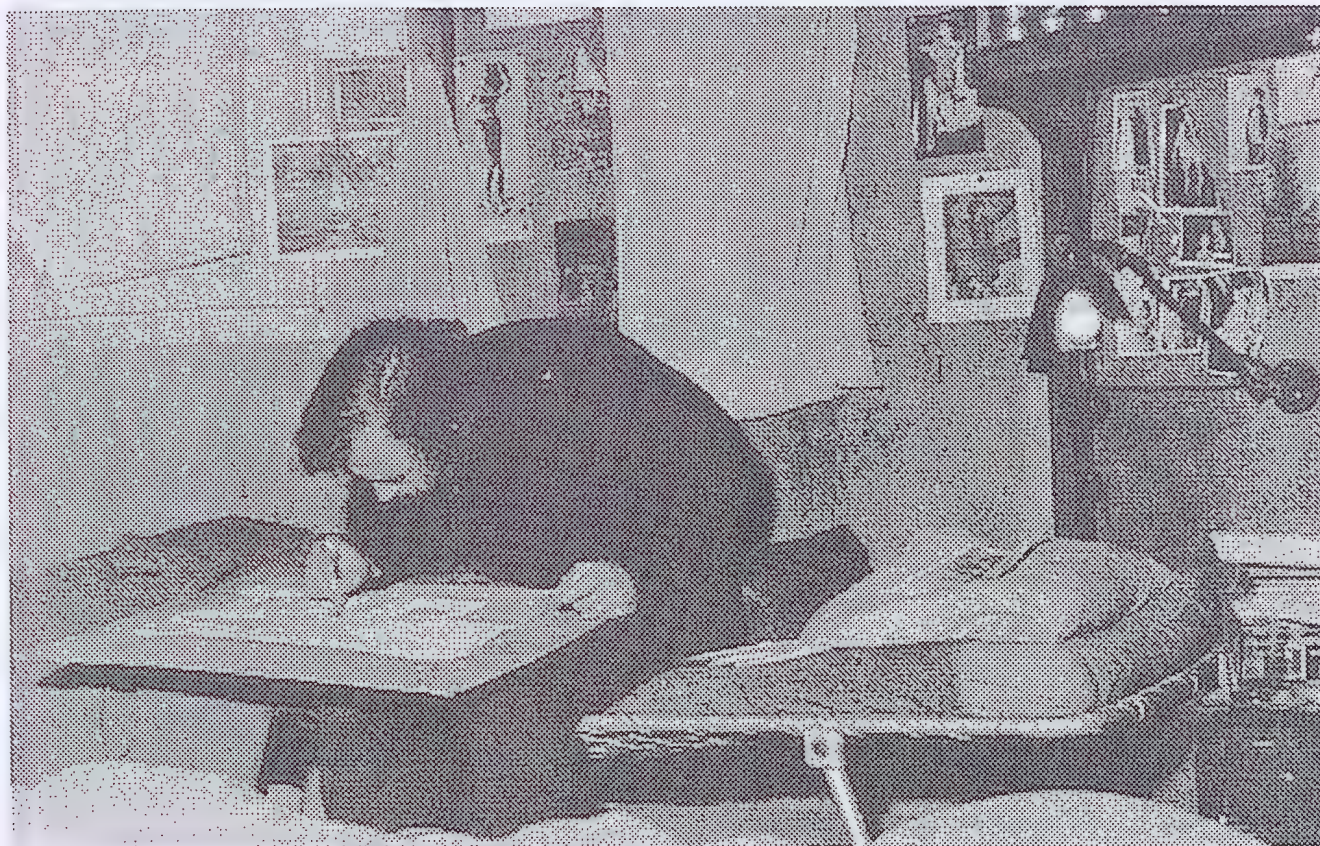
It was the custom for the cook to be given Sundays off from the cooking chores. We took it in turns to cook the meals on that day. I can tell you that it required some ingenuity towards the end of the year to come up with appetizing meals made of corned beef and a few canned vegetables. The cook had already tried his best during the week. Cooking was done on an Aga stove, fuelled by coke. Because it was always lit and warm, it was the common meeting place for all the staff, much to the annoyance of the cook trying to prepare meals. To help the cook, washing up the dirty pots and dishes was done by the rest of the crew. The water supply came from a soak on Camp Hill, swept by rain and sea spray. The water was brackish and very hard. We were supplied with soft soap, which looked and felt like axle grease. Didn't work that well either. At the end of washing up, the top of the water in the sink was always covered in a layer of grey sludge.

The hard water also caused problems when washing clothes. In the interests of efficiency and laziness, we boiled everything. All white cotton goods came out grey and stiff from this process. We didn't mind, everybody else had the same underwear! Because of the problems in getting sufficient hot water, showers were infrequent. After a while, I don't think anybody noticed any more. The only other heated room was the recreation room, which was warmed by a barely adequate oil fired device. It was a vertical cylinder, about a metre high, into the base of which oil dripped at a controlled rate. On a very cold day, we would try and increase the heat output by increasing the oil flow. Past a certain point, the heater would become unstable and go into a series of small explosions. These would lift the lid and pour smoke into the room. We soon learnt not to do that.

[All photos of Macquarie Island by Peter Ford]

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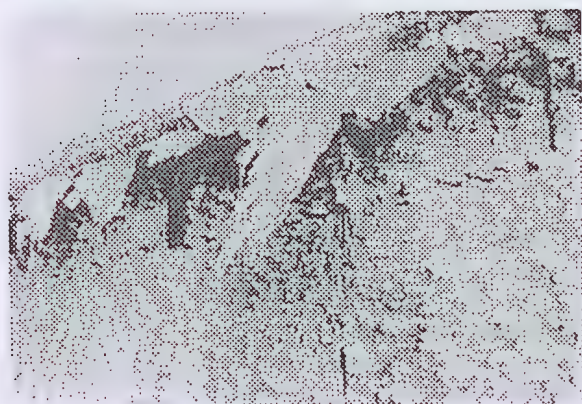




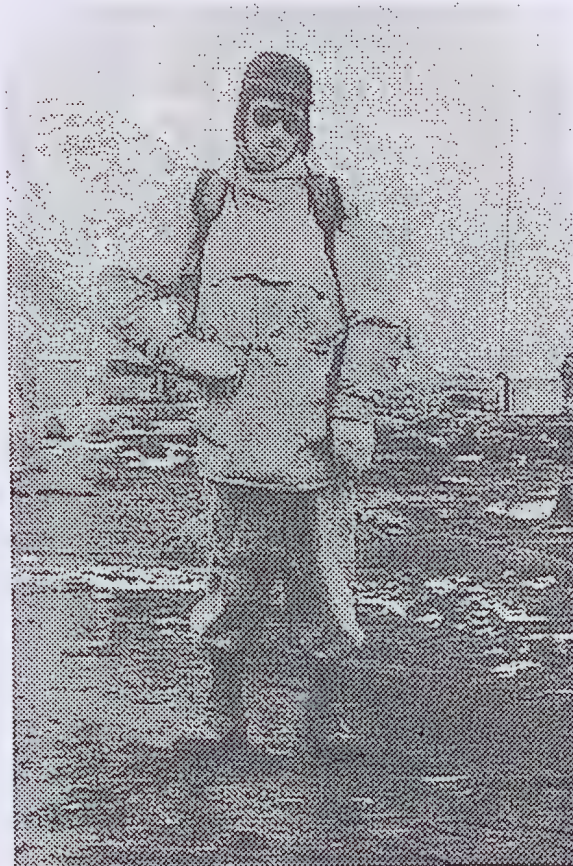
**Above: Bedroom in Macquarie Island Hut**



**Below: After rare snowstorm**



**Above: Wind-blown ice outside hut**



**Above: Modern expeditioner gear!**



## MACQUARIE MEMORIES NO.2 (cont.): 1962 - GELID ICE

After a year in the Antarctic, no-one is quite the same person as they were before they went. Not many winterers end up barking mad but slightly altered perceptions of reality are common. At least, that's my only excuse for the events described below. We had indeed been at Mawson for a year and the relief ship was due any time: it actually arrived five days later, so we were all a bit excitable.

At that time part of the station equipment was a dinghy. I believe that is no longer so; perhaps we were responsible. When I looked in my diary to remind myself of what happened I decided that there was no need to rewrite the story, so here is the entry for that day, with a couple of comments in brackets added with the benefit of hindsight.

Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1962.

Tonight I went out for a row in the dinghy with Oscar, Barry, Dave and Mark. [Surnames omitted to provide complete anonymity for the culpable.] We went for a row in East Bay. Dave wanted to see if he could get some fish for biological specimens so Mark came on board with a big box of PE3 explosive, a tin of detonators and feet and feet of fuse. The idea was to stun the fish by dropping a stick [of PE3 gelignite] overboard. Mark said he thought he'd better keep the dets in his pocket all the time. If he laid them down in the boat the shock of the explosion transmitted through the water might set them off. If that happened we'd all be blown to Kingdom Come, so you can imagine we rowed like hell when he dropped the first one overboard. We survived but one could feel the shock wave give the boat a good solid thwack.

We tried a couple of sticks, which did nothing but give a couple of penguins headaches. Then we came across a floe about 30 feet square, with a couple of seals on it. We scared one into the water [deliberately, to get it out of harm's way] but the other one wouldn't shift. So we thought we'd try the effect of a couple of sticks under the floe.

After Mark threw the sticks we were in such a haste to get away that we didn't look where we were going and ran aground on some rocks. So at explosion time we were much closer to the floe than we intended. The results were spectacular. The floe broke up into about twenty smaller bits, all heaving about and rolling away from the centre. The seal was left lying on a much smaller bit of ice, quite unharmed, but with a stunned expression on his face.

Then we rowed round to the icebergs in East Bay. They looked terrific in the sunlight. We drifted in quite close to one of them and Oscar wanted to go right up to it and grab one of the icicles hanging down near the waterline. Barry wouldn't be in that and it was just as well, as it turned out.

Some of the sides of the berg looked pretty rotten and Mark suggested we put a half-minute fuse on three sticks and toss it in near the bottom of the berg. We rowed in breathless anticipation as soon as he'd thrown [I still remember wondering at this stage why we didn't use a one-minute fuse] and in 30 seconds, Crack! went the shock wave, and several pieces of ice the size of a large room crashed down into the sea. A series of tidal waves spread out from the centre of the disturbance and there was some panic while we tried to decide whether the dinghy, now broadside on, should face the waves stern first or bows first. [We decided on bows first but Oscar and I, the oarsmen, had opposing views about which way we should rotate the dinghy. Consequently it stayed broadside on.] Luckily the waves had died down a lot when they reached us.

We were laughing nervously at this and saying things like "Gawd!" and "Strike, I didn't think all that would come down!" when the whole face of the berg gave way. A bit half the size of the Aberfeldy fell in. [the Aberfeldy Hotel in Hobart was my family home at the time.] A really big wave, about six feet with a foaming crest went roaring off, luckily not in our direction. We were just rocked about a bit in the water.

Momentarily chastened, we began the row back to camp.

The evening's thrills were climaxed when Oscar went over to the warm store to get a bottle of chocolate topping. He didn't find any but he did find three tins of beer stowed away.

They are no more.

**John Phillips**





## **PORT FOCUS**

'The Sunday Tasmanian' newspaper now has a section titled 'By the Docks', which features shipping information and profiles interesting people and places around Sullivan's Cove.

## **HIGH SHELF**

Denis Abbott, Librarian at Hobart's CSIRO marine research centre, is the newly elected President of the International Association of Aquatic & Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres.

## **MARINE PLANNING BOOST**

Hobart-based National Oceans Office has been allocated an extra \$18 million over the next 2 years by the Federal Budget.

## **SCIENCE-WISE**

Women in Science Enquiry Network (WISNET) has been established in Tasmania by AAD glaciologist Barbara Smith. The Network was launched by former CSIRO chief Nan Bray and provides a mentoring system to increase women's opportunities to participate in scientific research. WISNET has been established in other states since 1984 and the website is [www.wisnet-australia.org](http://www.wisnet-australia.org)

## **PIRATE PATROL**

AURORA AUSTRALIS became the first armed ship to patrol the Southern Ocean for illegal fishing of Patagonian Toothfish. Although no ships were sighted, the 50-day voyage for 22 people, mostly from Customs and Fisheries Management, monitored oceans around Heard and McDonald Islands. In a major effort to reduce poaching, \$12 million has been provided by the Australian government to increase these patrols.

## **ONLY THE BEST**

The Parliamentary Secretary for the Antarctic, Dr Sharman Stone, opened innovative laboratory facilities designed to cater for the breeding of krill at the Australian Antarctic Division in May. A second laboratory will be the first one used to investigate the response of Antarctic invertebrate species to contaminants remaining after station waste was dumped at open landfill site – a practice stopped in the mid 1980s.

## **THE MIDWINTER FESTIVAL 2003**

'An ambitious and exciting program for 2003 has been assembled,' says Paul Cullen, Festival Co-ordinator. 'An expanded Longest Night Film Festival will feature rare archival footage and some extraordinary new documentary films, including more than one world premiere.

With the assistance of the Australian Antarctic Division and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, the Antarctic Discovery Days will educate, fascinate and inspire more than 2000 Tasmanian school children.

Public exhibitions and events include the Phillip Law Lecture and the Antarctic Midwinter Dinner; the Huskies' Picnic at the Botanical Gardens; photographic displays; Science in the Pub; workshops, and a special performance from the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

This year will also see the launch of the Cold Fingers Music Festival, sponsored by the Hobart City Council. As before, ABC radio will provide lively and comprehensive coverage of Festival Week, and WIN Television will advertise the Festival in regional Victoria and NSW as well. The Mercury newspaper will again carry the whole Festival program and associated stories, as well as displaying newspaper coverage of Antarctic events over the past 200 years at their Print Museum.'

During autumn, events with an Antarctic theme were also popular, and acted as a precursor to the forthcoming Midwinter Festival. '10 days on the Island' included the exhibition by Jorg Schmeisser at TMAG, the TSO's Antarctic Concert and other musical performances. The Balloon Convention exhibited a balloon version of Mawson's Hut and amongst the Tasmanian events for the Australian Innovation Festival, the University of Tasmania's Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies displayed examples of their research projects.

In the weeks just prior to the Festival, TMAG has organised a school holiday program based on their Macquarie Island display. Coral Tulloch will hold workshops to make models of the Island (one edible), plus penguins, mobiles and other artwork. Liz van Ommen will be making 'Wickedly Wiry Birds' of the Southern Ocean with children in the second week. Other students, at schools, are making Snow Petrels for the opening of the festival on June 14. [ [www.antarctic-tasmania.info](http://www.antarctic-tasmania.info) ]



## POLAR PATHWAYS: BLIGH MUSEUM

*'We spent several days on Bruny Island during our Easter break. What a lovely place! Full of history and beauty,' writes Irina Karmanovskaia.*

Have you ever seen a white wallaby? There is one place in Adventure Bay where you can see many of them at dusk.

Have you ever been on a three-hour boat cruise along the awe-inspiring coast of South Bruny? A unique, unforgettable experience! How "madly danced our hearts with joy as fast we fled in the south." (Tennyson). Unfortunately not as far South as my dream...

Have you ever spent a moonless night on an unknown beach freezing in the wind, waiting for the penguins to emerge from the water and hurry towards their burrows?

Have you ever sought to experience the same place where vessels of famous early expeditions into the Southern Ocean dropped anchor? Captains Tasman, Cook, Bligh were its most notable visitors.

Adventure Bay was Cook's last port of call in Australia before his tragic death in Hawaii. He spent five days there ... Captain William Bligh called at Adventure Bay in 1792 where his expedition's botanist planted apple trees on the Island. The French explorer Bruni D'Entrecasteaux found them flourishing eight years later... (It was W. Bligh, the NSW Governor at that time, who greeted the Russian Company ship "Neva" which called to Sydney in 1807. It was first time a Russian ship came to Australia).

Have you ever visited the Bligh Museum of Pacific exploration? That is a real pearl of the Island. Even if there was nothing else on Bruny but this small piece of history, it's worth seeing. There are maps, documents, paintings, letters from Antarctic stations and artefacts that were collected by the Museum founder, Dr. John Bruce Hamilton (1901-1968). He was a well-known ophthalmologist and his passion was South Pacific history. Thanks to his efforts we can enjoy seeing this collection now. One of the exhibits is a tree trunk which bore a plaque allegedly attached by Cook himself.

There are many interesting photos of that time, one of which is Carsten Borchgrevink's Southern Cross expedition in Hobart in 1898. One can see original signatures of all its members including first Tasmanian Antarctic explorer Louis Bernacchi.

The museum has a unique collection of valuable books about famous explorers such as Cook, La Perouse, Shackleton, Amundsen and many others... some of these books date back to 1768! A real goldmine for those interested in South Sea history.

Everyone who comes to Bruny will find something new and dear to his soul and "discovery will lead to discovery"...

My special thanks to Bligh Museum staff member Peter for his help and advice.



Photo of Carsten Borchgrevink's Southern Cross Expedition members in Hobart, 1898, on display at the Bligh Museum, Bruny Island.



## THE EDGE OF THE WORLD ON DISPLAY

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) has transported a taste of the Subantarctic to major shows in Sydney and Melbourne. The shows included the ABC Gardening Australia Live Show in Sydney in September 2002 and the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show in April 2003.

The displays were made a reality through our partners Tas. South Regional Tourism and Blooming Tasmania, who along with a number of sponsors provided significant support for the development and presentation of the displays. RTBG staff project managed both the displays using the skills of Hobart designer Wilmar Bauman.

The displays featured the RTBG's botanical heritage and provided an excellent attraction to a niche market of 180,000 garden and plant lovers who attended the Shows, with most wanting to know more about Tasmania and its tourism opportunities.

The quality of the Sydney display resulted in it winning a silver award in the display garden category, even though it featured a major promotional component. This was a wonderful reward for our first attempt at producing travelling displays at this level. The Sydney display was also enlivened by regular sessions with Gardening Australia's Peter Cundall promoting Tasmania and the RTBG to a weekly television audience of 1.2 million.

Through its strategic planning process, the RTBG adopted as part of its vision the aim to be "internationally recognised as a centre of excellence in southern hemisphere cool climate plants and to enrich Tasmania's social and cultural environment". The aim of the display was to provide an introduction to Tasmania by linking the RTBG's botanical and horticultural heritage to the broader range of the State's natural and cultural heritage assets.



The theme for both displays was based around four aspects of the RTBG's horticultural and botanical collections including: images promoting the RTBG's unique Subantarctic Plant house; a stylised version of Pete Cundall's Vegie Patch as seen on ABC TV's popular Gardening Australia program; the botanical and horticultural heritage of the Gardens, which was established in 1818, and an introduction to Tasmania's natural heritage.

Continued next page >



The Subantarctic panels in particular, featured very prominently and both displays attracted much positive comment and, we believe, set a new benchmark for tourism promotion in forums such as this.

The central image of the Subantarctic display was a Macquarie island coastal scene during a storm painted by John Lendis, the artist responsible for the mural inside the RTBG's Subantarctic Plant House. The painting was sponsored by Antarctic Tasmania. The Subantarctic display has also been used as a backdrop to the Antarctic Ambassador launch and was part of the Whole of Government display at the Royal Hobart Show.

The development and presentation of the two displays cost over \$50,000 not including staff time and was the result of the generous support of the Tasmanian business community. The RTBG would like to take the opportunity to thank those businesses including the major sponsors: Tourism Tasmania, TOLL Tasmania, Patrick Shipping, The Fork in the Road Garden Centre, Corus Hotel Sydney, Antarctic Tasmania and Civic Trees. Other sponsors included Tas. Vacations, Federal Hotels and Resorts, Tasmania's Temptations Holidays, Travel Point, Gateway Tasmania, Hotel Grand Chancellor, The Innkeepers Collection, B&B and Boutique Accommodation, Botanica World Discoveries, Port Arthur Historic Site, Hobart City Council, Cradle to Coast Tourism Authority, Van Diemen Quality Bulbs, Vogelvry Bulbs, Pine Rise Peonies, The National Rose Garden at Woolmers and Davies Bros.

We also want to thank the staff from TAS. South, Blooming Tasmania and Tourism Tasmania, who helped staff the displays.

The painting and a number of images from the Subantarctic element of the display will be on show in the Bond Store at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery as part of their Macquarie Island display for the Mid-Winter Festival between the 14-22 June 2003.

[Information supplied by Mark Fountain, RTBG]

## **ICE BOUND EXHIBITION**

*Ice Bound* is an exhibition of Antarctic Photography from the collection of The Wilderness Gallery at Doherty's Cradle Mountain Hotel. It will be shown at Hadleys Hotel, Hobart as a Midwinter Festival Event from the June -14 July 2003.

This is a great opportunity to come in from the long cold Hobart nights and enjoy the warmth and camaraderie of the Ritz Bar along with some breathtaking images from that coldest, driest and windiest of continents; *Antarctica*.

Hadleys Hotel has a long association with Antarctic explorers and adventurers dating back almost a century to Amundsen's 1911 stay at Hadleys Hotel on his return from the South Pole. To celebrate the 2003 Mid-winter Festival, Hadleys Hotel will be exhibiting selected photographic works by Grant Dixon, Wayne Papps, Craig Potton, Graham Robertson, Karl Rollings and Andy Townsend.

These images are part of the initial exhibition at the Wilderness Gallery, Cradle Mountain. From the crystalline light sparkling across sculpted and scoured ice, to the engaging behaviour of the Antarctic animal world, these images evoke the magic and the extremes of Antarctica's diverse nature.

The photographers, Grant Dixon, Wayne Papps, Graham Robertson, Craig Potton, Karl Rollings and Andy Townsend have skilfully captured the changing light, animal life and icescape, combining harsh realities with a sense of wonder that takes you out of your everyday experience.

The photographs will hang in the restaurant, main Foyer and the bar from 14 June to 14 July.



To Celebrate the Mid Winter Festival 2003

**Hadleys Hotel, Hobart**  
In conjunction with  
**The Wilderness Gallery, Cradle Mountain**  
presents

# 'ICE-BOUND'

A selection of images from  
**Antarctica**

by photographers

Grant Dixon, Graham Robertson, Wayne Papps,  
Craig Potton, Karl Rollings and Andy Townsend

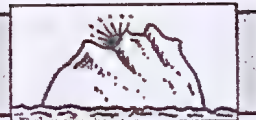


Photograph: Jade Wave by Karl Rollings

**14 June to 14 July 2003**

Everyday 10am to 10pm in the Main Foyer, Bar and Restaurant  
34 Murray St Hobart ph 6223 4355





## ZOO NEWS

Taronga Zoo is developing new exhibit areas next year, including an Australian Coastline precinct incorporating penguins and seals. The Australian Marine Mammal Research Centre will be based there and a range of public programs will enable visitors to better understand Antarctic research and marine biologists' work.

## ANTARCTIC ATTENTION

The Australian Antarctic Division held Australia-wide seminars in April and May this year to present details of future projects to scientists and businesses considering scientific research in Antarctica. Recent progress on the Hobart-Casey Station air link was outlined, as well as changes to the science program.

## ANARE PARK PROPOSAL

Last year AURORA magazine included an article outlining a proposal for the development of an 'ANARE Park': a place of remembrance of ANARE members who gave their lives while serving in Antarctica. Further details are available from Steve Grimsley, phone/fax: 02 6227 4259 or email: [sgrimsley@ozemzil.com.au](mailto:sgrimsley@ozemzil.com.au).

## SOUTHERN INSPIRATION

The first of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's 'Artists working/talking live in the Gallery' on May 3 focused on 'Drawing on Antarctica'. Several artists demonstrated processes involved in creating a range of art works, surrounded by Jorg Schmeisser's Antarctic paintings and etchings.

## TEE TOO WARM

At a golf course 600 km north of the Arctic Circle, the fifth annual Drambuie World Ice Champion-ship had to be cancelled when warm conditions thinned the ice in the fjord at Uummannuq, Greenland, to only 10 cm.

## NEW STUDIES

A Malaysian University has recently signed an agreement with the University of Tasmania, so that Malay students can extend their research into Antarctic and Southern Ocean studies by having access to IASOS data.

## POLAR CLUE

A British TV crew was in Tasmania recently, filming an episode of 'Treasure Island', a program in which contestants are required to solve cryptic clues to get host Suzi Perry to a new location. One of the clues was hidden in snow in Antarctic Adventure, thus publicising Tasmania's Antarctic connection to the UK audience.

## NEW GALLERY

The Wilderness Gallery, newly opened at Cradle Mountain in Tasmania's mid-north, includes Antarctic photographs in one of the eight rooms housing the inaugural wilderness photographic exhibition. Several of these photos will be on display at Hadley's Hotel in Hobart during the forthcoming Midwinter Festival.

## COOL BALLOONS

One of the exhibits in the Australian Balloon Convention in Hobart was a replica of Sir Douglas Mawson's hut, made from thousands of white balloons.

## SHIP STAMPS

Hobart artist Peter Gouldthorpe has designed Australia Post's recent Antarctic stamps series, featuring ships chartered by ANARE. The stamps show KISTA DAN, MAGGA DAN, THALA DAN and NELLA DAN.

## LIVE FROM THE ICE

Anyone interested in Antarctic news from USA bases each summer should check out 'The Antarctic Sun'. Editors Kristan Hutchinson and Mark Sabbatini visited Tasmania earlier this year and collected several stories about TPN members for this summer's editions. The newsletter is available at [www.polar.org/antsun](http://www.polar.org/antsun).

## CRUISES SOUTH

Antarctic tourism now features regularly in Australian newspapers and magazines – see cruises advertised by [www.auroraexpeditions.com.au](http://www.auroraexpeditions.com.au), [www.southernseaventures.com](http://www.southernseaventures.com) and [www.worldexpeditions.com.au](http://www.worldexpeditions.com.au). Aurora Expeditions is also taking 40 'present and future leaders' on a Think Tank on Ice cruise between Ushuaia and the Antarctic Peninsula.



## Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra

### EXPEDITION SOUTH!

Friday 20 June, 8pm  
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An Antarctic journey in sound and  
image narrated by TIM BOWDEN.

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## BOOKS

**'VOYAGE TO THE END OF THE WORLD'** by David Burke. Published by Envirobook 2002. Price: \$39.95

Describes the recent voyage of the Kapitan Khlebnikov, which reached the point furthest south, 78 degrees 37.5' S, as well as the history of men who explored the Antarctic for this goal.

**'ANTARCTICA: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA FROM ABBOTT ICE SHELF TO ZOOPLANKTON'** edited by Mary Trewby. Published by David Bateman. Price: \$67.96 inc. postage, through Readers Digest.

An alphabetical arrangement of 2000 Antarctic entries, briefly covering climate, history, science, tourism and conservation. Interesting, but with an emphasis on NZ and USA references.

**'COLD WAR'** created by Tom Clancy and Martin Greenberg, written by Jerome Preisler. Published by Penguin. Price: Unknown.

A novel based partly in Antarctica, involving uranium mining and dumping and other topical themes. (Even mentions 'transportable apple huts').

## MAGAZINES

**'MARITIME TIMES OF AUSTRALIA'** edited by Bob Petrass. Published by the Maritime Museum of Tasmania. Cost: Gold coin donation.

A quarterly containing interesting articles about maritime history and present day news.

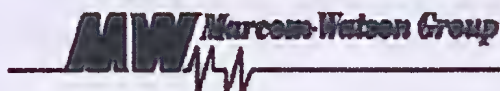
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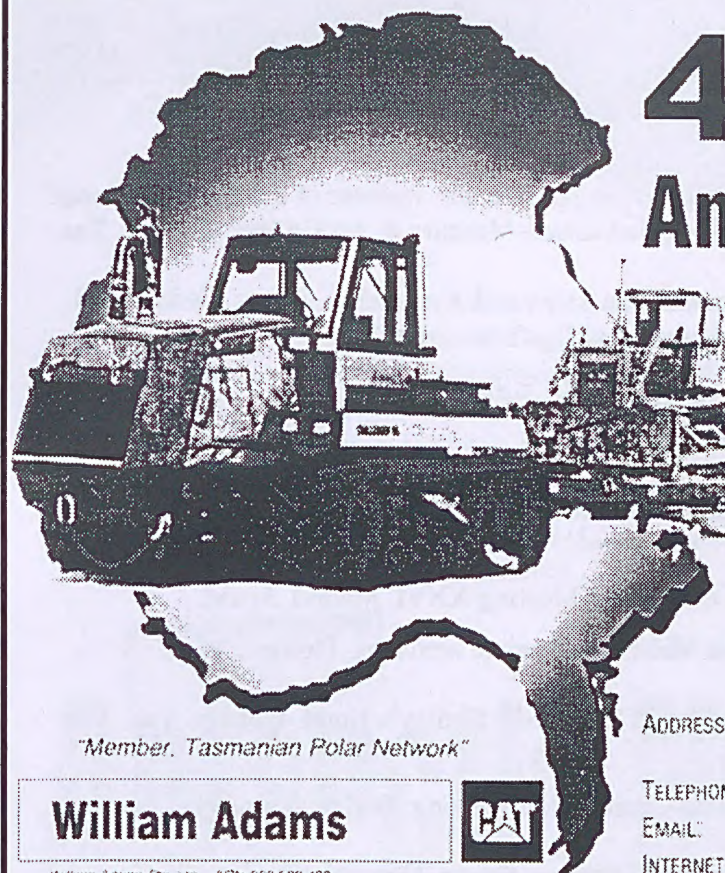
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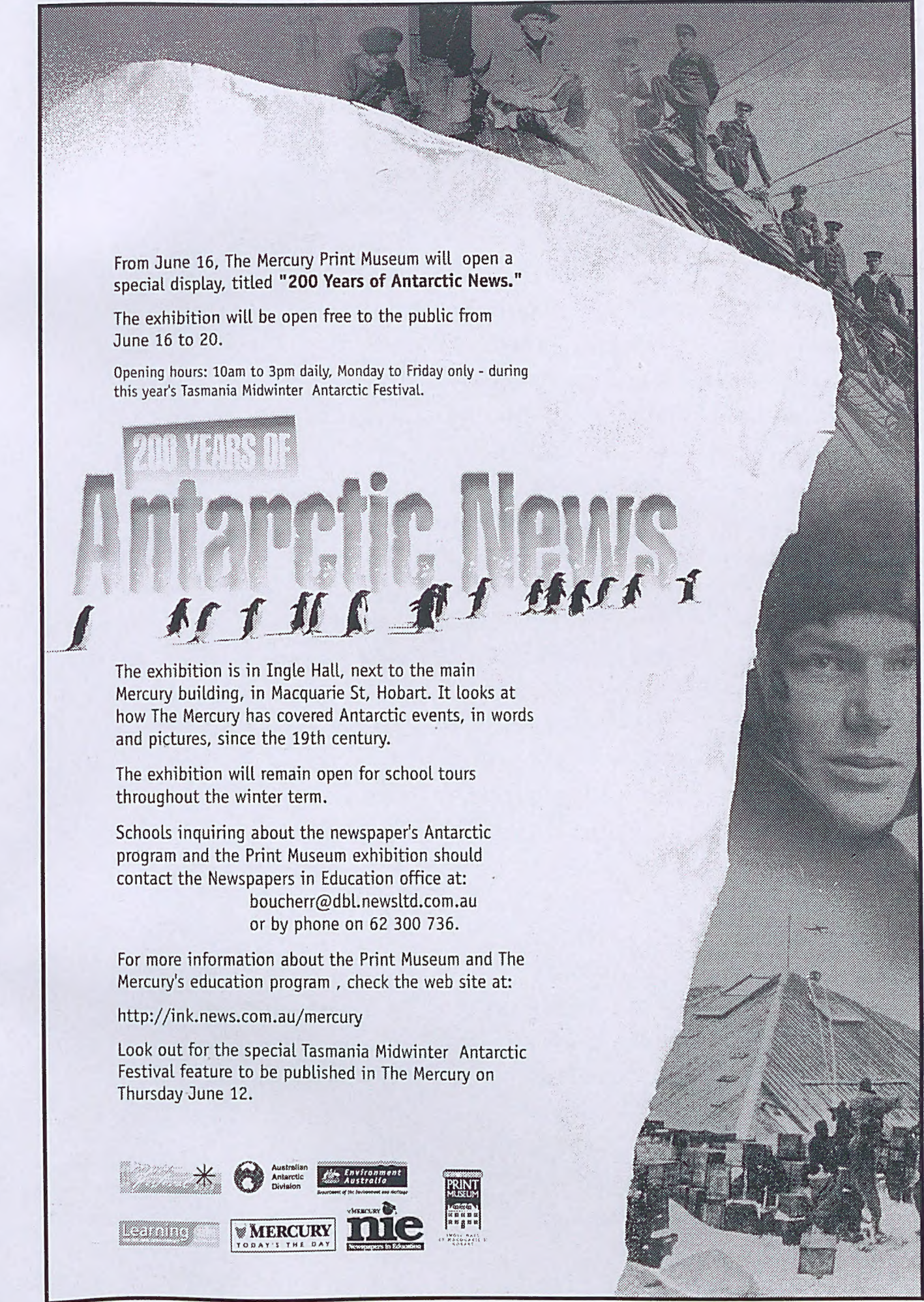


# POLAR CALENDAR



31 13	May July	2003- 2003	'Macquarie Island – a narrow speck in the vastness of the Southern Ocean' exhibition. Bond Store, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
2-6	June	2003	International Symposium on Snow and Avalanches. Davos, Switzerland. Contact: <a href="http://www.spri.com.ac.uk/igs/home.htm">www.spri.com.ac.uk/igs/home.htm</a> .
2-6	June	2003	IAATO Annual Meeting. Seattle, USA.
5	June	2003	World Environment Day.
8	June	2003	Last day for 'Liquid Sea' exhibition. Museum of Contemporary Art. Sydney, NSW.
9-20	June	2003	Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting XXVI. Madrid, Spain.
14-22	June	2003	Antarctic Tasmania Midwinter Festival activities. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
14 14	June July	2003- 2003	'Ice Bound' Photographic exhibition. Hadley's Hotel. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
16-19	June	2003	International Whaling Commission Meeting. Berlin, Germany.
17-20	June	2003	High Seas Biodiversity Workshop. Cairns, Queensland.
21	June	2003	Midwinter Solstice.
8-11	July	2003	COMNAP XV, Brest, France. Contact: <a href="mailto:jsayers@comnap.aq">jsayers@comnap.aq</a> .
13-26	July	2003	International Astronomical Union General Assembly. Sydney, NSW.
21-25	July	2003	8 <sup>th</sup> International Conference on Permafrost. Zürich, Switzerland. Contact: <a href="mailto:haeberli@gis.geogr.unizh.ch">haeberli@gis.geogr.unizh.ch</a> .
25	July	2003	Tasmanian Polar Network meeting. 11.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m. Antarctic Adventure. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
31	July	2003	Launch of the ACE CRC. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
1	August	2003	Fourth Governor's Forum on Antarctica. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
15	August	2003	Last day for 'Far Flung Places': 3 exhibitions including 'Race to Antarctica' State Library of Tasmania. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
25-29	August	2003	7 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Antarctic Glaciology (ISAG-7). Milan, Italy. Contact: <a href="mailto:isag7@unimib.it">isag7@unimib.it</a> .
?	September	2003	TPN Procurement and Commercialisation Workshop. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
18-25	September	2003	Conference on the future of South Georgia. Cambridge, UK. Contact: <a href="mailto:David.Rootes@poles.apart.org">David.Rootes@poles.apart.org</a> or <a href="mailto:rwburton@ntlworld.com">rwburton@ntlworld.com</a> .
27 7	October November	2003- 2003	CCAMLR meetings. Wrest Point. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
24	November	2003	Total solar eclipse. Queen Mary and Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica.
28 8	November December	2003- 2003	"Think Tank on Ice" Antarctic cruise. Contact: <a href="mailto:rixs@ozemail.com.au">rixs@ozemail.com.au</a>





From June 16, The Mercury Print Museum will open a special display, titled **"200 Years of Antarctic News."**

The exhibition will be open free to the public from June 16 to 20.

Opening hours: 10am to 3pm daily, Monday to Friday only - during this year's Tasmania Midwinter Antarctic Festival.

200 YEARS OF

# Antarctic News



The exhibition is in Ingle Hall, next to the main Mercury building, in Macquarie St, Hobart. It looks at how The Mercury has covered Antarctic events, in words and pictures, since the 19th century.

The exhibition will remain open for school tours throughout the winter term.

Schools inquiring about the newspaper's Antarctic program and the Print Museum exhibition should contact the Newspapers in Education office at:  
boucherr@dbl.newsltd.com.au  
or by phone on 62 300 736.

For more information about the Print Museum and The Mercury's education program, check the web site at:

<http://ink.news.com.au/mercury>

Look out for the special Tasmania Midwinter Antarctic Festival feature to be published in The Mercury on Thursday June 12.





# ANTARCTIC AND SOUTHERN OCEAN SHIPPING CALENDAR

9	September	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Departs Hobart for Marine Science.
23-25	October	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Arrives Hobart, departs for Casey Base.
4-7	November	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Casey Base.
5	November	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Departs Port Elizabeth, South Africa.
13-14	November	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Kerguelen Island.
15	November	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Heard Island.
15-19	November	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Davis Base.
21	November	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Davis Base.
21	November	2003	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V3.1	Departs Bluff, NZ.
23-26	November	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Mawson Base.
26	November	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Casey Base.
26-27	November	2003	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V3.1	Macquarie Island.
2	December	2003	SOUTH. SUPPORTER V3	Departs Fremantle, W.A. for Heard Island.
3	December	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Arrives Hobart, departs for Macquarie Is.
6	December	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Arrives Fremantle, W.A.
6-7	December	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V3.2	Macquarie Island.
8	December	2003	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V3.1	Arrives Dunedin, NZ.
9-27	December	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Departs Fremantle for Marine Science.
9	December	2003	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V3.3	Departs Dunedin, NZ.
11-14	December	2003	SOUTH. SUPPORTER V3	Heard Island.
26	December	2003	SOUTH. SUPPORTER V3	Arrives Hobart.
27-28	December	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V3.2	Arrives and departs Lyttleton, NZ.
30	December	2003	[to be selected] V5	Departs Hobart for Casey Base.
7	January	2004	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V5.1	Departs Bluff, NZ.
8-13	January	2004	[to be selected] V5	Casey Base.
10-11	January	2004	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V5.1	Macquarie Island.
16-17	January	2004	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V4.1	Macquarie Island.
20	January	2004	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V4.1	Arrives Hobart.
21-27	January	2004	[to be selected] V5	Mawson Base.
23	January	2004	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V5.2	Macquarie Island.
30	January	2004	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V5.1	Arrives Bluff, NZ.
30 5	January February	2004- 2004	[to be selected] V5	Davis Base.